Foreign Crops and MARKETS

VOLUME 51 NUMBER 19

NOVEMBER 5, 1945

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Issued by the OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

LATE NEWS

The first meeting of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has closed in Quebec, Canada, after choosing Sir John Boyd Orr, noted farmer and nutritionist, as its first Director-General, and selecting Washington, D. C., as the Organization's temporary location.

Orr's designation as the first Director-General was recommended unanimously by the General Committee. He was described as an eminent scientist, distinguished scholar, experienced legislator, and successful farmer when his name was submitted for approval by the Conference. His salary was fixed at $18,000 annually, in addition to $10,000 representation allowance, and December 31, 1947, was set as the termination date of his term. Chairman L. B. Pearson of Canada said future terms would be for an undetermined period.

Reports of various committees were adopted in plenary session before adjournment. In line with the constitutional provision that FAO itself is not an action agency, these reports were confined to recommendations relative to FAO's organic policy. In general, they recommended quick studies of world-wide situations affecting food and agriculture, and laying the groundwork for close cooperation among member governments, and with other United Nations groups.

The Marketing Committee's report attracted keen public interest. Stating that "the world food situation is one of shortage rather than surplus", it also said that food output would increase with return of peacetime conditions, and that "it would therefore be folly to disregard the possibility of surpluses developing, and the FAO should study how to deal with such surpluses in the period before they appear."

The Marketing Committee report listed several things which it said FAO could do on its own responsibility. These included the study of technical marketing problems involving processing, transportation, and storage, and such economic studies as periodic reports on supplies and prices, as well as studies of general trends in supplies, prices, and demand. While pointing out that in a group of marketing activities FAO can work only in collaboration with other organizations, the Committee asserted definitely that FAO must assume a positive role in international economic collaboration.

"The FAO," the report said, "should be prepared to participate in the drafting of international commodity agreements . . . it should advocate measures for mitigating any international surplus of one commodity by increasing its consumption or diverting production toward commodities in shorter supply or more elastic demand."

Late News is continued on page 271.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS, AND FEEDS

AUSTRALIA'S GRAIN CROPS INCREASED

Prospects for the current grain crop in Australia improved following recent rains, and the present condition is generally considered satisfactory. Around average yields are expected if rainfall continues adequate. The wheat crop, which had been forecast as low as 100 million bushels, because of lack of moisture in some areas, is now forecast in trade circles at 135-140 million bushels. The feed grain outlook is also much more favorable than the poor 1944-45 production.

Weather conditions in early October were considered satisfactory in all States except South Australia where rainfall had not been sufficient to provide reserves of subsoil moisture. In addition, low temperatures in July slowed crop development, while high winds and dust storms in certain areas did some damage. Yields of all grains are expected to be light in that State.

Preliminary estimates of the 1945 wheat acreage indicate an increase of about 30 percent for the country, compared with last year's acreage. An increase of about a million acres in wheat seeded for all purposes was expected in New South Wales, on the basis of farmers' intentions. The increase intended in South Australia was about 450,000 acres for all purposes and in Western Australia was 650,000. In Victoria seedings for grain only were about 660,000 acres larger than in 1944.

Increases in the wheat acreage were made possible by the removal of restrictions on expansion which had been in effect during recent years. There will again be freedom from restrictions on seedings for 1946-47, it has been announced. Moreover, increased supplies of superphosphates are expected to be available for next year's crop.

A slight increase in the acreage seeded to oats and barley is reported. On the basis of intended seedings, the main increase in oats was expected in Western Australia and South Australia. No change was expected in New South Wales, which is the largest producing State, whereas a substantial reduction was indicated for Victoria. The outlook for barley is relatively unfavorable, since about two-thirds of the country's production is grown in South Australia where the conditions this season have been unfavorable. The bulk of the intended expansion was reported for that State though some increase was also expected in Western Australia and Victoria. Good yields are expected for all areas except South Australia. Stocks of barley in the country are very low as a result of small crops during the past three seasons, particularly in 1944-45.

Corn planting is now in progress in New South Wales and Queensland. These two States together grow about 90 percent of the country's total. No estimate of this year's plantings is available. Favorable conditions for planting in the main areas, however, may result in a larger area than the 259,000 acres reported for 1944-45, when the crop was estimated at 6.5 million bushels.

CUBA IMPORTS RECORD WHEAT FLOUR SUPPLY

Receipts of wheat flour in Cuba for the 9 months ended with September approach 2.2 million bags of 200 pounds. Receipts to that date exceed the former record imports of about 1.6 million bags for the year 1943. The large imports were necessary to replenish low stocks at the beginning of the year, in view of the record rate of consumption. Increased consumption is attributed to the expanded purchasing power of the people, as well as to the relatively low price of bread, which was subsidized throughout the period.

Imports during the current season were all from the United States. Stocks of flour on January 1 were estimated at only 95,000 bags, compared with a desirable commercial level placed between 300,000 and 500,000 bags under present conditions. After a heavy flow of imports, the stocks on August 1 were some 600,000 bags, and on October 1 they had risen to the high point of around 700,000 bags. As this is a larger supply of flour than the country is prepared to store under usual storage practices, imports for the remainder of the year are expected to be negligible.

The stocks are said to be taken care of without the large spoilage losses that were feared a few months ago. A substantial movement into cold storage facilities has been reported, and importers are said to have passed as much as possible on to bakers. Present stocks are thought to be large enough to supply needs through November, but by early December stocks will again be below commercially desirable levels. The prospective demand in 1946 is expected to be from 1.8 to 2 million bags.

Flour prices have remained stable since 1942. The wholesale ceiling price has been $8.90 per bag, and during the period of excessive stocks prices have been lower than the ceiling. Virtually all flour sales are direct from importers to commercial bakers as home baking is negligible. A preference for high-gluten type flour, preferably top patents milled from hard spring wheat continues, since the favorite bread of the country is made by a long fermentation process requiring high-gluten flour.

CURTAILED IMPORTS CAUSE RICE SHORTAGE IN CEYLON

As a result of reduced imports, Ceylon is experiencing a severe rice shortage this year. In order to maintain the present scant rations, a

small quantity of rice was received on loan from India during the first half of 1945. In addition, comparatively small imports are arriving from Egypt. Imports from Brazil, however, may also be less than those of last year because of drought conditions in that country. While it was hoped that rice could soon be obtained from Burma, none apparently will be available from that source within the next few months. Although the rice acreage in Ceylon was increased during the war, a drought during the latter part of 1944 again reduced the comparatively small amount of local production.

Last year rice imports into Ceylon were only about 20 percent of prewar. Of the total imports equaling 250 million pounds in 1944, about 130 million came from Brazil and almost 100 million arrived from Egypt. In contrast, out of the average of 1.2 billion pounds imported during the prewar 5-year (1937-1941) period, 800 million were imported from Burma and the remainder came primarily from Siam and British India.

CEYLON: Rice production, imports, and utilization, average 1937-1941, annual 1942-1945 a/

Year	Production b/		Imports	Apparent utilization
	Rough	Milled		
	1,000 bushels	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Average 1937-1941	16,000	500	1,229	1,700
1942	15,000	470	589	1,100
1943	15,000	470	311	800
1944	14,600	460	251	700
1945	12,900	400	c/ 176	-

Compiled from Ceylon Customs Returns and unofficial estimates.
a/ Includes milled rice and rough in terms of milled at 70 percent of rough rice. b/ Unofficial estimates. Crop harvested principally November-January preceding calendar year of trade and utilization.
c/ January-June.

Ceylon's annual rice consumption was reduced from about 320 pounds per capita during 1937-1941 to approximately 120 pounds last year. The rice shortage was made up by increased domestic production of other grains and vegetables and by imported wheat and wheat flour from Australia.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERS

COTTON CONSUMPTION IN CUBA INCREASING

During the year ended July 31, the consumption of cotton in Cuba amounted to 31,600 running bales, compared with 30,000 for the previous year and a prewar (1935-1939) average of less than 10,000 bales. Cuba's two cotton spinning mills possess a total of 78,000 spindles, 14,000 of which were installed during the past year. About 10,800 spindles and some additional weaving equipment are reported to be on order or already

landed and awaiting installation. Owners of several small weaving mills also plan to install spinning equipment in the near future.

The two spinning mills operate 1700 looms and employ 3,000 workers. They account for about 80 percent of all cotton piece goods made in Cuba and together with the weaving mills provide about 50 percent of Cuba's cotton textile requirements. Most of the remainder is usually imported from the United States. The principal items manufactured in Cuba are sheeting, print cloth, denim, duck, and drills. The largest mill is weaving cotton cloth for sugar bags at the rate of 1 million bags a month. In 1943, cotton goods production by all mills amounted to 44.5 million yards when cotton consumption amounted to around 20,000 bales.

Prior to 1941, the Cuban cotton textile industry operated almost entirely on cotton imported from the United States. Brazil, Argentina, and Peru were the principal sources of imports in subsequent years except in 1942. Imports during the first seven months of 1945 totaled 12,100 bales (of 500 pounds gross), 4,800 of which were from Peru, 4,000 from Mexico, 1,700 from the United States and 1,600 from Argentina. Most of the cotton used by Cuban mills is of 31/32 inch staple or longer.

CUBA: Cotton imports by countries
(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Countries	Average 1935-1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944
	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales	Bales
United States	8,829	12,970	16,405	18,153	5,616	2,174
Brazil	0	335	19,083	2,849	0	0
Argentina	a/	0	0	0	11,337	21,830
Peru	a/	0	b/	b/	10,490	6,510
Mexico	211	56	0	5	0	0
Others	17	3	14	165	c/ 301	c/ 1,662
Total	9,057	13,364	35,502	21,172	27,774	32,176

Compiled from Comercio Exterior de Cuba.
a/ If any, included in "Others." b/ Less than one-half bale.
c/ Imports from Haiti.

During the war years, price difference is reported to be the only factor influencing the shift to South American growths. Under the preferential tariff schedule a duty of 35 centavos per kilogram (.16 cent per pound) is levied on cotton imported from the United States while 50 centavos (.23 cent) is levied on other growths. The average declared value of American cotton (mostly 31/32 inch) imported in 1945 was equal to 19.47 cents per pound, compared with 16.21 cents for Mexican, 15.29 cents for Argentine, and and 18.50 cents for Peruvian.

Stocks of cotton in Cuba on July 31 were estimated at 21,000 bales, compared with 13,000 bales a year ago.

WEEKLY COTTON PRICES ON FOREIGN MARKETS

COTTON: Price of certain foreign growths and qualities in specified markets

Market location, kind and quality	Date 1945	Unit of Weight	Unit of Currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria (spot)		Kantar			
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	10-18	99.05 lbs.	Tallaris	35.50	29.64
Giza 7, F.G.F.	10-18	99.05 lbs.	Tallaris	Not quoted	
Karnak, F.G.F.	10-18	99.05 lbs.	Tallaris	38.50	32.14
Bombay (Jan. '46 futures)		Candy			
Jarila	10-19	784 lbs.	Rupee	410.25	15.76
Bombay (spot)		Candy			
Kampala, East African	10-19	784 lbs.	Rupee	850.00	32.66
Buenos Aires (spot)		Metric Ton			
Type B	10-20	2204.6 lbs.	Peso	1300.00	17.56
Lima (spot)		Sp. Quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	10-20	101.4 lbs.	Sol	105.00	15.93
Recife (spot)		Arroba			
Mata, Type 5	10-19	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	86.00	14.16
Sertao, Type 5	10-19	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	83.00	13.66
Sao Paulo, (spot)		Arroba			
Sao Paulo, Type 5	10-19	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	90.00	14.82
Torreon (spot)		Sp. Quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	10-20	101.4 lbs.	Peso	85.75	17.40

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.

CEYLON FIBER EXPORTS CONTINUE SMALL

During the first half of 1945, exports of all coir fibers from Ceylon totaled 12,310,000 pounds, compared with 12,050,000 pounds during the corresponding period in 1944, and 13,840,000 pounds during the last half of 1944. Yarn exports fell from 1,250,000 pounds during January-June 1944 to 140,000 pounds during January-June 1945. At the same time, bristle fiber exports fell from 2,080,000 pounds to 1,750,000 pounds, but mattress fiber exports increased from 8,720,000 to 10,420,000 pounds.

Coir, the principal fiber produced in Ceylon, is obtained from the coconut. It is exported as coir yarn, bristle fiber, and mattress fiber. While the yarn is used in the manufacture of rope and mats, the bristle goes into brushes, and the mattress fiber is used in upholstery. India is the only other country of major importance in the exportation of coir fibers. Before the war coir yarn exports from India were about six times as large as those from Ceylon, but the Indian exports of bristle and mattress fibers averaged only about 260,000 pounds per year.

Ceylon suffered a considerable loss in fiber trade during recent years. Exports of coir yarn dropped from a prewar average of 10.8 million pounds per year, with a peak of 12.1 million during 1937, to a low of 1.2 million pounds in 1943. The yarn is produced as a cottage industry. Local consumption increased as imports of rugs and other fiber products were cut off by war conditions. During 1944, consumption is estimated at between 1 and 2 million pounds. Local competition with exporters has been a factor in the rise in price to an average in 1944 of about 6 cents a pound, or more than two and one-fourth times the prewar average. In June 1945, coir yarn was selling at the equivalent of about 7.4 cents. Peacetime exports went principally to the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Japan, but in recent years the United Kingdom has received approximately three-fourths of the yarn exports. (See accompanying tables for data.)

Coir bristle fiber is exported in larger quantities than the yarn, but the unit price is only about one-half to three-fourths as much. During 1944, the price averaged almost 4.5 cents, or about three and one-third times the prewar average. During June 1945, the average was down to about 3.8 cents. Exports fell from a prewar average of 25 million pounds per year to a low of 4 million in 1944. Nearly 30 million pounds were exported during 1937, the peak year. (See the following table for more complete data.)

Local utilization of bristle fiber is principally in the manufacture of brooms and brushes, but the quantity used is negligible. Japan received nearly half of the prewar exports, but the United Kingdom recently has furnished a market for about three-quarters of it. The accompanying table of exports by countries gives the quantities.

CEYLON: Exports of coir yarn and fibers, averages 1933-1937, 1938-1942, annual 1941 to 1944

Year	Coir yarn	Bristle fiber	Mattress fiber
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Average -			
1933-1937	10,810	25,300	55,590
1938-1942	7,420	13,670	54,070
1941	3,860	6,110	38,510
1942	4,490	6,480	40,130
1943	1,230	5,220	19,190
1944	1,480	4,070	20,340

Compiled from official records.

Both bristle and mattress fiber are factory-made. The yield from the coconut husks is usually about 1 pound of bristle to each 2 pounds of mattress fiber, although the proportion can be varied considerably according to demand. Mattress fiber exports before the war averaged about 55.6 million pounds, compared with a low of 19 million in 1943. The peak

year was 1939 when 79.4 million pounds were exported. The market value per pound of mattress fiber averages little more than one-third of that of coir yarn, but the larger quantities exported brought the total value during the war years to about four times that of the yarn. The average price of No. 1 mattress fiber last June was the equivalent of about 1.9 cents per pound, or about two and one-half times the average prewar price.

Production of mattress fiber is increasing this year. During the first quarter of 1945, estimated production was about 5 million pounds and about 6 million during the second quarter. About 6.5 to 7.0 million pounds are expected for the third quarter. Large quantities are now exported to the United Kingdom, South Africa, British India, and Australia. The United States imports most of its supply of yarn from British India, but practically all of its fiber supply comes from Ceylon. During 1940, Ceylon furnished more than 3.4 million pounds of coir fiber out of a total of 3,656,000 pounds imported into the United States but only 5,000 pounds out of a total of 5,356,000 pounds of coir yarn.

CEYLON: Exports of coir yarn and fibers, by countries of destination

Fiber and country of destination	1943	1944	January-June 1945
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Coir yarn:			
United Kingdom	950	930	100
Australia	210	150	40
South Africa	40	250	0
British India	30	10	a/
Other countries	0	140	0
Total coir yarn	1,230	1,480	140
Bristle fiber:			
United Kingdom	4,190	2,750	1,510
British India	360	210	100
Australia	230	280	70
United States	110	210	10
South Africa	90	350	10
Other countries	240	270	50
Total bristle fiber	5,220	4,070	1,750
Mattress fiber:			
South Africa	6,940	8,320	2,320
Australia	5,100	1,550	2,410
United Kingdom	4,070	3,190	3,900
British India	1,870	5,070	1,200
United States	0	1,760	290
Other countries	1,210	450	300
Total mattress fiber	19,190	20,340	10,420

Compiled from official records
a/ Less than 500.

Ceylon produces some kapok for export. Most of the exports go to the United Kingdom. Average annual production was about 757,000 pounds during 1933-1937 and about 1.1 million pounds during 1938-1942. A total of 1,636,000 pounds was exported in 1942, but the volume fell to about 844,500 pounds in 1944. Only 59,000 pounds were exported during the first half of 1945, compared with 459,000 pounds during the first half of 1944. The price has been fairly constant around the equivalent of 13.4 cents per pound throughout 1944 and the first 6 months of 1945.

TOBACCO

SWITZERLAND INCREASES CIGARETTE OUTPUT

Wartime conditions boosted Switzerland's output of tobacco products. Cigarette production, particularly, was stimulated by larger consumer demands. In 1944, the country's factories turned out nearly 3.5 billion pieces, about 45 percent more than the 1939 production of 2.4 billion. During the years 1940-1943, production of cigarettes averaged 3 billion.

Production of cigars and other tobacco products, however, showed relatively small percentage changes during the war years. About 567 million cigars were manufactured in both 1943 and 1944. Production of pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, and snuff, amounted to about 5.7 million pounds in 1944, slightly less than the 1943 output, but somewhat more than the output during the earlier war years.

PALESTINE'S TOBACCO PRODUCTION UP; IMPORTS LARGER

The 1944 tobacco production in Palestine amounted to 3.7 million pounds from 6,961 acres, or about 33 percent larger than the 2.8 million pounds from 6,817 acres in 1943. During the 5 years 1938-1942, production averaged 2.1 million pounds from 5,002 acres. Most of the tobacco grown in Palestine consists of low-quality Turkish types. The crop, although limited, supplies the bulk of the country's leaf-tobacco requirements, but some quality leaf, principally of Turkish and United States origin, is imported for blending purposes.

During the war years, Palestine's leaf tobacco imports increased substantially. In 1944, imports of leaf tobacco totaled 1,105,000 pounds, compared with 969,000 pounds in 1943 and an average of only 225,000 pounds during the period 1937-1941. Most of the imports of leaf originated in Turkey and the United States. Cigarette imports, chiefly from Egypt, were 235,000 pounds and 236,000 pounds in 1943 and 1944, respectively, and were considerably larger than the prewar level. Palestine's imports of other tobacco manufactures are not significant. Small quantities of tombac for use in waterpipes are imported each year from nearby Middle Eastern countries.

PALESTINE: Imports of leaf tobacco, by countries of origin, average 1937-1941, annual 1942-1944

Country	Average 1937-1941	1942	1943	1944
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
Bulgaria	24	12	1	1
Greece	53	55	11	1
India	a/	a/	42	44
Turkey	53	193	667	670
United States	67	157	136	260
Others	28	10	112	129
Total	225	427	969	1,105

Compiled from official sources.
a/ If any, included with "Others."

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

CANADIAN FRUIT CROPS SMALL

Production estimates of Canadian fruit, as of October 26 show little change from earlier estimates. The apple crop, placed at 7,685,000 bushels, is 57 percent smaller than the crop of 1944 and 45 percent less than the 10-year (1935-1944) average. While production prospects have increased since August in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, further decreases have occurred in Ontario and British Columbia. The British Columbia crop of 5,764,000 bushels, however, is of average size but New Brunswick production, now estimated at 148,000 bushels, is 50 percent less than the 1944 crop. In Quebec the crop was a failure and will be only 9 percent of the 900,000 bushels harvested last year. Ontario will also harvest a small crop of 568,000 bushels, 78 percent less than the 2,620,000 bushels harvested in 1944. The pear crop is estimated at 592,000 bushels, a reduction of 34 percent from the 1944 crop of 894,000 bushels. Production of plums, prunes, and peaches also shows a decrease. In contrast, the grape crop, the only major fruit crop to show an increase, is estimated at 66,509,000 pounds, an increase of 9 percent over last year's crop.

CANADA: Fruit production, 1945 with comparisons

Kind	Final 1943	Final 1944	Estimated 1945
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
Apples	12,854	17,829	7,685
Pears	637	894	592
Plums and prunes	363	503	346
Peaches	633	1,698	1,495
Grapes a/	53,763	60,862	66,509

Compiled from official sources. a/ 1,000 pounds.

ITALIAN WINE PRODUCTION SMALLER THAN AVERAGE

Trade sources estimate that the 1945 wine production in Italy will be about the same as last year or around 858,552,000 gallons. This is considerably less than the prewar average of 1,016,000,000 gallons. During the past year, rainfall in central Italy has been the smallest since 1740, with temperatures relatively high. Unfavorable growing conditions have resulted in small grape clusters but with relatively high sugar content. Thus, wine is expected to be of better than usual quality.

SMALLER 1945 FILBERT CROP INDICATED IN TURKEY

The 1945 preliminary estimate of filbert production in Turkey, received from Giresun, the center of production, is 33,000 short tons (unshelled basis), compared with 52,800 tons in 1944 and 60,500 tons in 1943. This is a decrease of 39 percent from the 5-year (1939-1943) average of 54,500 tons and 40 percent from the 10-year (1934-1943) average of 55,200 tons.

TURKEY: Estimated production of filberts, 1945 with comparisons
(Rounded nearest 100 short tons - unshelled basis)

Year	Production	Year	Production
	Short tons		Short tons
1940	27,500	1943	60,500
1941	33,000	1944	a/ 52,800
1942	68,800	1945	b/ 33,000

Compiled from official sources.
a/ Preliminary revised. b/ Preliminary estimate.

Growing conditions from the start have been extremely unsatisfactory. During the winter severe frosts, experienced in most of the growing areas, and cold weather, which continued well into May, retarded budding. When budding finally started, growers were somewhat optimistic as to crop prospects. Hopes for a considerably larger crop dimmed, however, as the season advanced, and the drop became extremely heavy. Moreover, the cold, foggy, moist weather was ideal for the weevil known in Turkey as Balaninus Nukun, which helped to reduce the already small set. This weevil (known scientifically as Curculio Nucum L.) does not occur in the United States, although closely related species have been found in the northwest. The ensuing drought during the summer months also helped cut the crop to the lowest level since the 33,000 tons produced in 1941.

Despite the adverse conditions, the quality of the nuts is said to be good, although the crop runs to smaller sizes, and the shell-out ratio is greater than normal. As harvest approached, the trade estimated that only limited stocks of suitable quality for export to the United States remained

in the country from the previous crop. During the late spring and early summer about 10,000 short tons (unshelled basis) were estimated still on hand from the 1944 crop. Reports indicate that this tonnage was disposed of during the summer for use in making filbert oil and to some extent in export channels. The 1944 marketing season from the Turkish point of view was rather unsatisfactory. In prewar and early war years a heavy percentage of filberts was exported to Germany and to occupied countries. German transactions were handled largely on the compensation basis, with slightly higher prices than on the free market. When enemy-controlled areas were cut off, Turkey was faced with a serious marketing problem. A large block of filberts was sold to the United Kingdom and smaller lots to the United States and other countries.

Indications are that no difficulty should be experienced in moving the new crop. The European, especially the United Kingdom, Scandinavian, and Swiss markets are expected to enter the Turkish market actively this season. The probable exports to the United States, however, are likely to be smaller than during the 1944-45 marketing season. During the war Turkey was the principal supplier of shelled filberts to the United States, followed by Spain. United States imports of unshelled filberts, mainly from Italy, stopped at the end of the 1940-41 marketing season.

UNITED STATES: Imports of filberts by specified countries, 1943-44 with comparisons

Year a/	Italy	Spain	Turkey	Other countries	Total
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
SHELLED					
1938-39	133	20	653	7	813
1939-40	259	79	990	30	1,358
1940-41	39	78	437	7	561
1941-42	0	0	27	0	27
1942-43	0	0	27	0	27
1943-44	0	559	17	0	576
UNSHELLED					
1938-39	333	0	0	0	333
1939-40	753	0	0	0	753
1940-41	34	0	0	0	34
1941-42	0	0	0	0	0
1942-43	0	0	0	0	0
1943-44	0	6	0	0	6

Compiled from official sources. a/ Crop year basis, September-August.

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

MEXICAN LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Cattle exports from Mexico in 1945 are expected to be about 350,000 head, compared with about 290,000 head for 1944 and an annual average of

about 500,000 head during the 5-year (1939-1943) period. Cattle ranges in the principal exporting States are reported to be in poor condition because of below-average rainfall in those States in the last 2 or 3 years, especially since November 1944. As cattle producers in the States of Sonora and Chihuahua have suffered some losses because of drought conditions, a reduction is expected in the calf crop during the next year. In view of a temporary decrease in cattle production expected in these States, exports to the United States may be smaller in 1946 than in 1945.

Reflecting the increase in cattle slaughter in the Federal District during the last 2 months, the supply of meat in the country is not as tight as a few months ago. Furthermore, there has been a strong demand for all types of livestock for slaughter purposes in Mexico, and prices have been quite favorable for selling them on the domestic market. Transportation, however, has been a limiting factor in the movement from the surplus-producing regions in the North. During the next year, enough animals are expected to be produced in Mexico to supply domestic needs.

Prices of livestock, meats, and hides are expected to continue high with very little prospect of their greatly decreasing during the next year. Unless further import supplies are obtained, prices of animal fats are expected to increase even from their present high point during the remaining months of 1945 and the first part of 1946.

A strong demand exists for cattle for breeding improvement in Mexico, and imports of both beef and dairy stock are expected to continue high. During the first 7 months of 1945, 8,071 head of cattle were imported, as compared with 9,981 head during the first 7 months of 1944. About half of these animals were for breeding. Only a few head of hogs, however, have been imported each year for breeding purposes. There were 5,392 head of sheep imported for breeding purposes in 1944, but the number imported in 1945 is expected to be much less.

DANISH HOG NUMBERS INCREASE

Bred sow numbers in Denmark on October 6 are reported at 128,000 head, compared with 116,000 head last year. While current sow numbers are down seasonally from those reported in July and August, they continue the trend begun in mid-July 1945 when bred sows showed for the first time since March 1944 an increase over the corresponding date of the previous year.

As a result of an increase in farrowings during the past few weeks, suckling pigs increased sharply to 492,000 head, compared with 305,000 head on August 25, the date of the last previous pig census. The current number of suckling pigs is the largest reported since early 1944.

Weaned pigs and slaughter hogs on October 6 totaled 1,084,000 head, continuing the low level reported during the first 10 months of 1945.

The present report shows the total swine for Denmark at 1,798,000 head, or 15 percent larger than the seasonal low of 1,560,000 head reported in May 1945.

The current report shows total sows at 213,000 head and boars at 9,000 head. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, October 8, 1945, for details of Danish periodic hog censuses in 1944 and 1945.)

LATE NEWS (continued)

Since the FAO Executive Committee will change one-third of its membership annually, the members were named for terms varying from one to three years. Lots were drawn to determine the length of each member's term. The committee members, and the length of their terms follow: Sir Girja Bajpai, India (2); Edouard Baker, Haiti (1); G. S. H. Barton, Canada (1); Newton Castro Belleza, Brazil (3); R. R. Enfield, United Kingdom (1); E. J. Fawcett, New Zealand (1); Anders Fjelstad, Norway (2); Alfonson Gonzales Gallarado, Mexico (1); Darwish Haidari, Iraq (2); Andre Mayer, France (2); Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, Poland (2); Howard R. Tolley, United States (3); P. W. Psou, China (3); P. R. Viljoen, Union of South Africa (3); Arthur Wauters, Belgium (3).

Director-General Sir John Boyd Orr is 65 years old, and a native of Ayrshire, Scotland. Holder of degrees from the University of Glasgow, he founded the Rowett Institute for research in animal nutrition in Aberdeen, Scotland, and owns and operates a large, general-produce farm in Scotland.

His first public comment after being named FAO head, included assertion that there must be no slump in agriculture after World War II as there was after World War I. He also said that if FAO's work is effective, it will be reflected in stable and adequate farm prices and in better markets for industrial goods. He said he spoke as an individual rather than as Director-General, pending conference with the Executive Committee.

In a foreword to a recently published book on the future of British farming, Orr said:

"With the memory of the slump in agricultural prices after the 1914-18 war still fresh in their minds, farmers are demanding a long-term agricultural policy. This is a reasonable demand, for agricultural production is a long-term business . . . . . Efficient farming is impossible as long as there is uncertainty as to future policy and prices. A change of policy, involving a slump in prices when the present emergency ends, will bring ruin to farmers, and the loss of the national capital which has been put into the land in the past four years.

"But an agricultural policy by itself is an impossibility . . . . production must be planned in the light of consumption. According to the findings of the Food and Agriculture Organization, even in the best-fed countries, between 20 and 30 percent of the population are inadequately

fed . . . . Hence, those planning for the New and Better Post-War World demand a great increase in the production of the foods of special value for health, such as milk, dairy products, eggs, fruit, vegetables and meat--the most expensive foods--and a retail price within the purchasing power of every citizen. In their zeal . . . some are apt to overlook the fact that unless the man in the country who produces the food has a real income comparable to that of the man in the town who consumes the food, he will move from the country to the town . . . Unless there is reasonable assurance of a market at a remunerative price, the food needed by the people will not be produced."

In selecting Washington as the temporary seat of FAO, the Conference agreed that the Organization's permanent location would be the same as that of the United Nations Organization when the latter is established.

A confirmatory telegram from Uruguay brought the FAO membership to 42 nations, of which 37 were represented at the Conference. The number does not include the Soviet Union. Chairman L. B. Pearson of Canada informed the Conference the head of the Soviet delegation told him his Government had the same objectives, and set for itself the same tasks as FAO, and that it endorsed that idea of international cooperation for the improvement of agricultural production and the bettering of the food situation of the United Nations. Pearson quoted the Soviet representative as saying, however, that the Government of the U.S.S.R. felt that the organizational forms of FAO still required study.

Receipts of livestock and dairy products in Paris, France, showed considerable improvement during September. Arrivals, however, are materially below September 1938. In comparison to prewar figures, 1945 arrivals for the month were only 25 percent as great for fresh meat, 40 percent for butter, 45 percent for cheese, 44 percent for fowl, and 76 percent for eggs.

The British Government has recommended continuance of the Ministry of Food as an essential part of Britain's national economy, an official announcement disclosed last week.

Egypt's cotton export tax of 20 piasters per kantar (.83 cents per pound) was abolished by the Government as of September 24, 1945. This action applies only to the 1945 crop. Stocks from previous crops are still subject to the tax when exported.

Correction: United States hop exports to Canada for the year beginning September 1, 1944, were 2,063,033 pounds. As the result of a transposition, the figure was given in the October 22 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets (page 244) as 2,603,033 pounds. The total exports as published should be reduced by a like amount. The correct total is 8,685,950 pounds.